

## Next Generation courts to capitalize on power of government cooperation

By Chief Justice Elizabeth A. Weaver

*The following has been adapted from remarks given by Chief Justice Elizabeth A. Weaver to the Michigan Association of Counties at its annual meeting in Sault Ste. Marie on Aug. 21.*

Let me share with you some good news the Supreme Court has received of late. The seven trial court consolidation projects that the Court has launched since 1996 continue to post positive results. They're getting better at it than the stock market.

### Chief Justice to deliver State of the Judiciary address

Chief Justice Elizabeth A. Weaver will deliver a State of the Judiciary address to a joint session of the Legislature at noon on Sept. 28 at the Capitol in Lansing.

*See page 7*



The Michigan Supreme Court's goals for the judiciary:

Fairness  
Accessibility  
Accountability  
Effectiveness  
Responsiveness  
Independence

For example:

- Efficiency measures in Barry County have cut in half the time needed to complete and criminal case and saved taxpayers \$195,000 in 1999 alone.

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## Next Generation courts to capitalize on government cooperation

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- The 46th Circuit, comprised of Crawford, Kalkaska, and Otsego counties, saw a savings of more than \$336,000 in 1999 and nearly \$587,000 since 1996. The circuit also has an award-winning web site that provides 24-hour access to the courts for payments and information.
- The Iron County demonstration project, which has been in operation for a relatively short time, has developed a consolidated budget for all courts, a single attorney contract serving all courts for indigent people, and the means to substantially increase collections.
- And in Washtenaw County, the criminal and civil caseloads have been reduced, and improved collections have motivated the funding unit to direct a portion to a building fund.

These projects are propelling the court system forward in terms of improved service to the public. So much so that the National Center for State Courts in 1999 recommended that Michigan courts pursue further innovation. And so we will.

The Supreme Court has announced the Next Generation Project. This program will provide funding for an additional 12 jurisdictions to develop new ways of providing efficient, responsive service without jeopardizing the fair and impartial treatment of cases. The first applications are already coming in. Applications have been sent to the courts and are available on the Supreme Court's award winning web site at [www.supremecourt.state.mi.us](http://www.supremecourt.state.mi.us).

The Next Generation Project is designed to give more courts the chance to realize for themselves – and for their funding units — the progress in service made at the original demonstration sites. We are confident the new project will succeed because of the lessons learned from those seven pioneers.

- First, plan ahead. Advance planning for change is a major key to success.
- Second, obtain the buy-in of judges up front.
- Third, include court staff in the process. Staff must be assured they are partners in the effort to improve service. Their roles may change, but they should feel secure that they are on the team and have a constructive role to play.
- Fourth, one size does not fit all. Which is why the emphasis in this project is on local creativity.
- And fifth, partner with the funding unit and the community.

The last point is most important. The application process which led to the selection of the original sites required up-front cooperation between the applying courts and their funding units. The demonstration projects were not merely court projects. They were community events.

So it will be with the Next Generation courts. The Legislature has made its commitment by funding the project, and the Supreme Court is greatly appreciative. Now it is time for judges, court administrators, funding unit officials, and local service organizations to make their commitment. Together we can make a difference once again and extend to

### Michigan Supreme Court **REPORT**

The *Michigan Supreme Court Report* is published by the Michigan Supreme Court.

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# Council of Chief Judges makes recommendations to Chief Justice

By Anne Vrooman  
Director of Intergovernmental Relations

The Council of Chief Judges has completed its initial task of reviewing the 18 recommendations made by chief judges in meetings held last year with Chief Justice Elizabeth A. Weaver. The 16-member council divided into three working committees to develop proposed responses to the 18 recommendations and met as a full council on June 21 to finalize their implementation proposals to the Chief Justice. Below, each recommendation is followed by its corresponding implementation plan.

**1.** Strengthen the chief judge rule to provide chief judges with clear authority and direction in their role of supervising colleague judges. *Implementation Proposal:* The chief judge rule has sufficient authority and direction and requires no further strengthening. It is incumbent upon SCAO that once a chief judge takes an appropriate action, the judge is immediately and completely supported by the SCAO. The SCAO and Office of the Chief Justice, working with the Council of Chief Judges, should prepare a protocol for establishing criteria and a method when action needs to be taken. Training in communication techniques should be considered in improving chief judges' skills and methods in dealing with their colleagues.

**2.** Amend the chief judge rule to state that if a judge has a matter under advisement that is awaiting a decision for more than 120 days, that judge may not take leave time until the matter is resolved. *Implementation Proposal:* It is unnecessary to amend the chief judge rule to deal with matters under advisement, because there are already appropriate sanctions. The chief judge rule should be circulated among judges and reviewed in detail for a better understanding of its power.

**3.** Develop intermediate sanctions for the chief judge to use as tools in supervising colleague judges (short of

referral to JTC). *Implementation Proposal:* Development of intermediate sanctions is premature. Chief judges, in coordination with the state court administrator should develop a database from actions taken to determine whether intermediate sanctions are necessary.

**4.** Provide training to *all* judges about the role of chief judges (presentation at annual judicial conference, and component of new judges training). *Implementation Proposal:* Add a component to the upcoming annual judicial conference to address the role of the chief judge and the chief judge rule. Add a component to new judges training to cover the role of the chief judge and the chief judge rule.

**5.** Through Michigan Judicial Institute (MJl) develop a chief judge training program to increase management skills with a curriculum which includes administrative topics, managing difficult people, negotiation, and budgeting. *Implementation Proposal:* Through MJl, develop and conduct a chief judge training program to be presented every two years consistent with the appointment of chief judges by the Supreme Court. The components of this training were developed by the committee and approved by the Council. Develop a mentoring program and training materials for chief judges appointed outside of the regular cycle of chief judge appointments.

*See COUNCIL, page 4*

## Council of Chief Judges makes recommendation to Chief Justice

*Continued from page 3*

**6.** Through MJJ, develop a team-building model curriculum for use at the local trial court level. *Implementation Proposal:* Work with MJJ.

**7.** By Supreme Court administrative order or court rule, mandate reduction of chief judge docket by 10% with an opt out provision. *Implementation Proposal:* Supreme Court administrative orders, court rules, or directives mandating appropriate reduction of chief judges' dockets, and resources to assist the chief judge in his or her responsibilities should be developed. The Supreme Court administrative order, court rule or directive should be broad enough to incorporate the different needs and practices of the various courts.

**8.** Establish a workgroup of judges to identify conflicts in statutes which cause difficulties for judges. *Implementation Proposal:* Conduct a survey of judges to identify conflicts in statutes. The committee developed a proposed survey which was adopted by the Council.

**9.** Conduct a separate meeting at the annual conference for chief judges, with a program for chief judges and opportunity to meet with the Chief Justice. *Implementation Proposal:* Have a reception or program at the annual judicial conference for chief judges to meet with the Chief Justice and other justices.

**10.** Create opportunities for chief judges to meet for the purpose of sharing of experiences. *Implementation Proposal:* Create opportunities for chief judges to meet at regional seminars and annual judicial conferences.

**11.** Develop a chief judge resource guide to assist chief judges. Such a guide would provide direction in identifying available resources when a problem arises. *Implementation Proposal:* Develop a resource guide (similar to a benchbook)

for chief judges. The committee developed the proposed topics to be included and the Council approved the contents.

**12.** Support local courts in communicating with local government through representatives of the Michigan Supreme Court periodically attending local events, and meetings with legislators. *Implementation Proposal:* No proposal at this time.

**13.** Develop a listserv for chief judges so chief judges can communicate with each other to exchange ideas and offer solutions to problems. *Implementation Proposal:* Create a listserv of chief judges as a tool for communication in order to assist each other and share ideas.

**14.** Encourage the use of law clerks and attorney magistrates as resources in the next generation of demonstration projects to encourage local funding of such positions. *Implementation Proposal:* No proposal at this time.

**15.** Provide greater technological assistance to courts through video conferencing and computers. Keep in mind that technology offers the key to communication for rural courts. *Implementation Proposal:* No proposal at this time.

**16.** Place greater emphasis on providing judicial impact statements for proposed legislation so that there is greater understanding and awareness of the impact on the court system. *Implementation Proposal:* Create a process for monitoring legislation which enhances the present legislation tracking procedure of SCAO. The enhanced process would include a link to Michigan's One Court of Justice web site to access the document which indicates the status of pending bills being tracked by SCAO and the Supreme Court; through the proposed listserv of judges, judges may offer comments on proposed legislation

*See COUNCIL, page 7*

# Mediation training session brings new recruits to ADR

By David Gruber  
Public Information Officer

Alternative dispute resolution has 24 new recruits as a result of a mediation training course sponsored this summer by the Michigan Supreme Court. Mediation is a process in which the parties in a dispute reach their own solution to their problem with help of a neutral mediator.

During the two weekend sessions, participants from the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, State Court Administrative Office, and Michigan Judicial Institute learned essential mediation skills and practiced resolving a variety of disputes. Instruction was provided by two experienced mediation trainers: Tom Shea and Anne Bachle-Fifer.

The training covered the advantages and disadvantages of various alternative dispute resolution techniques over the tradi-

tional adjudication process. It also covered the key elements of the mediator's role, the steps of the mediation process, and the ethical considerations of serving as a neutral mediator. A number of role-playing exercises enabled participants to practice their newly obtained skills and demonstrated the dynamics of conflict parties to a dispute bring to the courthouse setting.

Doug Van Epps, Director of the Office of Dispute Resolution at SCAO, spoke to the trainees about the role of mediation in the overall mission of courts in resolving disputes brought to them by citizens.

The mediation training was coordinated by Denise Koning, Administrative Services Coordinator in the Office of the Chief Justice.

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### See related article:

b Supreme Court  
launches new  
ADR rules, page 6



**Mediation training participants:** (front row, seated) Deb Marks, Linda Johnson, Marge Bossenbery, Jim Hughes, Gail Crachiola, David Gruber, Julie Clement; (second row) Anne Bachle-Fifer (trainer), Brenda Baker, Jan Hunt-Kost, Carol Knudsen, Linda Rhodus, Jackie MacKinnon, Kathleen Kane, Theresa Wright; (back row) Tom Shea (trainer), Kathy VanAsperen, Boby Avery, Linda Clewley, Mary Lovik, Mike Murray, Graham Bateman, Cindy Johnson, Dee VanHorn



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# Supreme Court launches new alternative dispute resolution rules

*By Doug VanEpps  
Director, Office of Dispute Resolution*

In May, the Michigan Supreme Court adopted new court rules (MCR 2.410 and 2.411) and amended existing rules (chiefly MCR 2.403, 2.404, and 3.216) governing alternative dispute resolution (ADR). The rules became effective August 1.

The process outlined in MCR 2.403 and all court rule references to it have been renamed “case evaluation” to accurately reflect what happens during that process. All SCAO-approved forms have been amended to reflect the renaming, and are being sent to all courts.

The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) rule, MCR 2.410, provides the key new authority for judges to order persons to attempt an ADR process, and requires courts taking advantage of that authority to submit for approval by the state court administrator a local ADR plan. To provide the best possible guidance to courts, the SCAO distributed guidelines for establishing a local ADR plan on August 1.

It’s important to note that MCR 2.410 and 2.411 are permissive rules. They do not require that courts avail themselves of the authority to order persons to attempt an ADR process. Thus courts that will not be using this authority do not have to submit a local ADR plan.

The mediation rule, MCR 2.411, outlines requirements for courts to follow if they implement an ADR plan calling for the referral of parties to the mediation process. “Mediation” now refers to the process in which a neutral third party helps parties reach their own settlement of matters by exploring options and identifying mutually acceptable settlement terms. Several mediation rule components were delegated to the SCAO for implementation, key among them the approval of mediator training programs and establishing criteria by which local ADR clerks might “grandparent” in qualified mediators.

For both general civil mediation and domestic relations training issues, the SCAO convened separate work groups to provide recommendations for implementing these provisions. Because of the tremendous importance of training issues, the SCAO is continuing to study other state models, and to consult with prominent trainers across the country. The SCAO expects to release both its Guidelines for the Approval of Training Programs and Guidelines for Approving Mediators (including grandparenting provisions) later this month.

Experience indicates that it will take courts at least six months — and more likely a year or more — to create a quality ADR program in collaboration with members of the local bar, mediators, and court constituent groups. Courts that will be implementing the new rules are encouraged to consult the Guidelines for Completing the Local ADR Plan with the understanding that the mediator qualification guidelines will be forthcoming.

To learn more about ADR and the new rules, a series of programs on ADR will be offered at the annual judicial conference in October. For additional information on ADR rule implementation, contact Doug Van Epps, Office of Dispute Resolution/SCAO. PH: 517/373-4839. EMAIL: [vaneppsd@jud.state.mi.us](mailto:vaneppsd@jud.state.mi.us).

## Administrative Update

### Chief Justice Weaver to deliver State of the Judiciary address

Chief Justice Elizabeth A. Weaver will deliver a State of the Judiciary address to a joint session of the Legislature at 12 noon on September 28, 2000 in Lansing.

The address will be given in the House of Representatives chamber in the Capitol Building. MGTV will air the speech live over cable television systems around the state.

A reception will follow the address in the Rotunda on the first floor. The reception will feature a display with highlights of the judiciary's recent accomplishments in improving court service to the public.

The last state of the Judiciary address was given in October 1997.

### Judicial conference absences to be handled by letter to SCAO

The annual judicial conference begins at 1:00 on Wednesday, Oct. 4 and concludes at noon on Friday, Oct. 6. Judges who are unable to attend the conference should submit a letter to John D. Ferry Jr., State Court Administrator, or a regional administrator asking to be excused from the event.

Information regarding registration for the educational programs was distributed by Michigan Judicial Institute (MJi) at the end of August.

If you have any questions concerning the program, contact Dawn McCarty or Cathy Weitzel, MJi, at 517/334-7805. Questions regarding reservations should be directed to Marge Bossenbery, SCAO-Central, at 517/373-0382.

*See ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE, page 8*

#### ADMINISTRATIVE MAILINGS

The administrative mailings have been sent under separate cover.

**Order Rescinding License Suspension** (Child Support/Parenting Time) for Jeffrey D. Kangas.

**Interest Rates** for Money Judgments.

**LEIN News Bulletin**  
May/June 2000.

**The Source**, Criminal Justice Information Center June 2000 (formerly the "Central Records News Bulletin")

**1999 Annual Report**, Office of Dispute Resolution

### Council of Chief Judges makes recommendation to Chief Justice

*Continued from page 4*

and the Supreme Court may ask judges for comment.

**17.** Work more closely with outside agencies such as FIA to resolve policy conflicts which result in delays and disservice to the public. *Implementation Proposal:* No proposal at this time.

**18.** Develop a program to recognize chief judges for their judicial leadership, such as awards for recognition in areas of innovative programs for serving the public, etc.. *Implementation Proposal:*

No proposal at this time.

Implementation of several of the recommendations is currently underway. The Council will continue to work with Chief Justice Weaver on the development of implementation plans.

*For additional questions regarding the Council of Chief Judges, please contact Anne Vrooman, Director of Local Intergovernmental Relations.  
PH: 517/373-0126.*

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## Administrative Update

### Supreme Court Counsel Janet Welch to join State Bar staff

Janet Welch, who has served as Michigan Supreme Court counsel since 1997 when the position was created, will be leaving to assume the position of General Counsel to the State Bar of Michigan. She is expected to complete her current responsibilities to the Court and assume her new duties by the end of the year.

Ms. Welch has been employed by the Court since 1988, first as a law clerk to former Justice Robert P. Griffin, and then as an executive analyst in the Office of the Chief Justice. Before joining the Court, Ms. Welch was the director of the nonpartisan legislative analysis office for the Michigan Senate.

### Nkrumah Johnson-Wynn leaves post as Hall of Justice coordinator

Nkrumah Johnson-Wynn, planning coordinator for the Hall of Justice Project, has resigned her position with the Michigan Supreme Court to spend more time with her family.

Ms. Johnson-Wynn guided the project through the lengthy and detailed design phase following its approval by the Legislature in 1998. Construction is now under way and expected to be completed in 2002.

Ms. Johnson-Wynn joined the Court in 1997 as director of the Office of Chief Justice.

### Change of address for attorneys must be provided to courts

Attorneys must provide each local court in which they practice with change of address information. The attorneys must also provide this information to the State Bar of Michigan.

Periodically, the State Bar makes the change of address information available to the SCAO and this is distributed biannually to courts using the case management system provided by Judicial Information Systems (JIS). Courts using the JIS system are responsible for maintaining their own attorney address file.

### SCAO to offer 2-day orientation training for court interpreters

When the SCAO joined the National Center for State Courts Consortium for State Court Interpretation last September, it became one of 25 states to take on the task of developing foreign language testing instruments, protocols, standards and procedures, and using the instruments that have been developed.

In October the SCAO will conduct two 2-day workshops in Detroit and Lansing designed to acquaint interested persons with new testing methods. The sessions will offer skill building information, exercises, and an overview of expectations for certified interpreters.

The first interpreter test will be offered in December. Judges and court administrators are asked to share this information with those who currently provide interpretation services for courts. For information on the SCAO Court Interpreter Certification Program, contact Pam Creighton, SCAO. PH: 517/373-4843.



## Administrative Update

### MJI makes instructional resources available to courts

The Michigan Judicial Institute (MJJI) has a multitude of instructional resources that will soon find their way to courts and judicial staff across the state.

**Caring for Your Customer and Yourself:** The first in a series of print modules developed with a grant from the Michigan Justice Training Commission (MJTC), the modules have been designed specifically for court support personnel. The packets consist of a participant packet and a facilitator packet. The participant packet includes activities to engage staff in exploring the topic through self-study. The facilitator packet assists trainers who may wish to provide additional group instruction and has a set of activities with step-by-step instructions and hand out materials to guide the trainer through one or more half-hour training sessions. Distribution of the first module occurred in June, the second print module, titled "Organizing Your Workload," will be distributed in October, and the third module, titled "Fostering Effective Communication," will be mailed in December.

**Staying Safe: A Guide to Personal Protection Orders:** Through a grant from the Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board, MJJI has produced a videotape to help answer basic questions about PPO actions, particularly in courts that process a high volume of PPO cases, or in courts that have limited access to outside resources to assist litigants with completing PPO forms. This public use videotape has been produced in three languages, English, Spanish, and Arabic, as well as closed-captioned for the hearing impaired. A braille version is also available for the visually-impaired. A language-appropriate brochure accompanies each video. Distribution to the family division of circuit court will occur in October.

**Court Employees — A Commitment to Excellence:** The purpose of this CD project, funded by the MJTC, is to provide Michigan court support personnel with the knowledge, tools, and practice to recognize and handle ethical situations that occur in the work environment. After viewing this program, Michigan's court employees will be able to provide a working definition of ethics, understand the importance of ethical behavior in the court system, and apply ethical decision-making strategies in the workplace. Distribution to all courts in both CD-i and CD-ROM formats will occur later this month. (MJJI has CD-i players available for those courts interested in providing training for court staff.)

**Resource Library Catalog:** MJJI has developed a lending library of resource materials that serves as a supplement to MJJI seminars by providing resources that can be used for reference as well as instruction on an individual or group basis. The materials come from a variety of sources including the State Justice Institute (SJI), the American Bar Association (ABA), the American Judicature Society (AJS), and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Materials range in format from print, audio tape, videotape, CD, and more. The updated catalogue with more than 1,200 titles was distributed over the summer.

**Court Support Personnel Web Site:** With funding from the MJTC, MJJI is developing a web site specifically designed to meet the needs of court support staff. As part of Michigan's One Court of Justice web site ([www.supremecourt.state.mi.us](http://www.supremecourt.state.mi.us)), this site will provide court support personnel with a "gateway" to web-based training and a variety of other resources. The site is expected to premiere in October.

For additional information, please contact Lori Sheets or Vickie Eggers at 517/334-7805.

## ADMINISTRATIVE EMAILINGS

The administrative emailings have been sent since the last issue of the *Michigan Supreme Court Report*.

### MAY 2000

**05/16/00:** Definition of Domestic Violence; FOC Grievance Record reports due July 15; FOC Annual Statutory Review due Aug. 1; *Michigan Supreme Court Report* May 2000 issue; Supreme Court Admin Order 2000-02 re Microsoft Litigation.

**05/17/00:** Instructions to Install Acrobat Reader 4.0

**05/22/00:** Supreme Court Order 99-63; Commercial Vehicle Legislation, 2000 PA 93-98, Effective 5/15/00; Judicial Ethics Opinion JI-124

**05/23/00:** Youth Courts; Supreme Court Order 00-13; resend of judicial ethics opinion JI-124

**05/24/00:** SCAO Adm Mem 2000-06 Amendment of Case File Mgt Standards; Supreme Court Order 99-61 Access to FOC Records

**05/31/00:** SCAO coordination of 2001 MJTC grant apps from court/judicial agencies

### JUNE 2000

**06/14/00:** child restraint data; Supreme court order 99-33; SCAO Admin memo 2000-07: Trial court communications policies & procedures

**06/16/00:** Highway Safety & Secondary Road Patrol Assessments; EHB 5624

**06/19/00:** Supreme Court Orders for ADM 98-24 and 99-10; 2001-2002 Judicial Fellows Program

**06/21/00:** Supreme Court orders for ADM 99-27; 98-46; 99-14; 99-18; 97-56; AG Opinion 7056

**06/28/00:** Supreme Court Orders for ADM 99-52 and 99-23

**06/30/00:** Supreme Court Orders for ADM 99-35/99-56 and 0018; Disbursement of fines, costs and reimbursements 2000 PA 93-98

## Grant Update & Technical Assistance

**National Youth Court Center (NYCC):** The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention established the NYCC at the American Probation and Parole Association. The Center provides training, technical assistance, and resource materials to developing and existing youth courts. NYCC also maintains a youth court web site ([www.youthcourt.net](http://www.youthcourt.net)) which contains a list of youth court programs, downloadable resources, training announcements, and links to other sites. Contact: Tracy Godwin, Director, NYCC, PO Box 11910, Lexington, KY 40578-1910. PH: 606/244-8215.

**Criminal Courts Technical Assistance Project (CCTAP):** American University, in partnership with the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, the Pretrial Services Resource Center, and the Justice Management Institute, has established a national scope technical assistance project, funded by the Dept. of Justice, to serve criminal courts and related adjudication system agencies. Technical assistance may be requested by phone, fax, or letter by contacting the CCTAP office. Contact: Joseph Trotter, Project Director, CCTAP, American University, Brandywine 100, 4400 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20016-8159. PH: 202/885-2875. FX: 202/885-2885. EMAIL: [justice@american.edu](mailto:justice@american.edu). WEB: [www.american.edu/justice](http://www.american.edu/justice).

**Local Law Enforcement Block Grants (LLEBG):** A technical assistance project focusing on LLEBG recipients who have received funds in FY '98-'99 is being conducted by the Justice Programs Office at American University in conjunction with the CCTAP project described above. This program focuses on grantees who have received funds for enhancing the adjudication of cases involving violent offenders, including cases involving violent juvenile offenders. Services under this project are provided free of charge to requesting agencies. Contact the CCTAP office as listed above.

## Administrative Update

### State Bar hosts first family court forum in Michigan

A group of multi-disciplinary professionals (lawyers, judges, friend of the court personnel, and psychologist/counselors) recently convened for Michigan's first Family Court Forum. The forum was planned and conducted by a committee of the Family Law Council of the State Bar of Michigan. It was funded principally through grants from the State Bar Foundation and the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

The planning committee determined that the mission of the Family Court Forum 2000 was to provide a setting in which multi-disciplinary professionals could meet and discuss high-conflict divorce cases and strategies for dealing with them. Participants were asked to identify one "best strategy" and any obstacles to its implementation, as well as ways to overcome those obstacles. Among the many strategies identified by the group:

- Pursue court rule changes to authorize the court to appoint a parenting facilitator or coordinator in appropriate cases — even if the parties do not agree to such an appointment;
- Pursue court rule changes that would eliminate the establishment of a custodial environment when one party moves out of the marital home after commencement of divorce proceedings; and,
- Pursue a review of ethical requirements of the disciplines involved with high conflict divorces to permit coordination among them for the benefit of the families that they serve.

Each of the above highlighted strategies will require further discussion and action. However, those committed to improving the practice of family law will work toward achieving the changes necessary to make divorce and divorce proceedings more humane.

Overall, the participants responded very favorably to the forum experience. A recurring theme from the participants was the value in having the various professions come together to identify areas of concern, discuss issues, and consider possible strategies. The overwhelming message that evolved from the forum is this: Judges, lawyers, referees, friends of the court, and psychologists need to continually hone their skills to give families the resources they need to deal with the thorny issues that inevitably arise during divorce.

The tenor of the conclusions reached at the forum was that all professionals should do everything they can to ensure that the spirit of the family court as envisioned by the Legislature and the Supreme Court is translated into family-friendly procedures in all trial courts.

Based on the success of the initial family forum, a discussion has already begun among Family Law Section members to make this an annual event. For further information regarding the status of the strategies highlighted above or planning of the next Family Court Forum, please contact Margo Nichols, Chair-Elect, Family Law Council. PH: 734/994-3000. EMAIL: [mnichols@nsss.com](mailto:mnichols@nsss.com).

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## Changeover

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### APPOINTMENTS

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**Courtright, John T.**, was appointed to the 24th District Court, Allen Park/Melvindale, to succeed Michael T. Russell, retired, for a term expiring Dec. 31, 2002.

**Girard, Dennis H.**, was appointed to the 96th District Court, Marquette County, to succeed Hon. Patricia Micklow for a term expiring Dec. 31, 2004.

**Popke, Lita Masini**, was appointed to the 3rd Judicial Circuit Court, Wayne County, to succeed Hon. Marianne O. Battani for a term expiring Dec. 31, 2004.

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### JTC ELECTIONS

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**Murphy, William B.**, 3rd District of the Court of Appeals, has been elected to the Judicial Tenure Commission as representative of the Court of Appeals for a three-year term, commencing Jan. 1, 2001, pursuant to Administrative Order 1991-7.

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### RETIREMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

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**Battani, Marianne O.**, resigned from the 3rd Circuit Court, Wayne County, effective June 8, to accept an appointment to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

**Payant, John D.**, 41st Circuit Court, Dickinson, Iron and Menominee Counties, retired Aug. 31. Judge Payant served from December 1982.

**Scorsone, Bruce**, 70th District Court Judge, is retiring Nov. 1. Judge Scorsone has served Saginaw District Court since Jan. 1, 1969.

**Silver, Sandra G.**, Oakland County Probate Court, resigned July 1. Judge Silver served from May 1988.

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### DEATHS

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**Boewe, Verne C.**, retired 37th District Court judge, passed away Jan. 15. Judge Boewe served from 1969 through 1976.

**Cook, Leo**, retired 5th District Court judge, passed away Sept. 6. Judge Cook served from 1973 through 1984.

**Deake, Edward D.**, retired 22nd Circuit Court judge, passed away Feb. 17. Judge Deake served from 1951 through 1990 as Justice of the Peace, Municipal Judge, District Judge and Circuit Judge.

**Dionise, Michael C.**, retired 71A District judge, passed away May 26. Judge Dionise served from 1969 through 1990.

**McGinty, Roy A.**, retired 24th District Court judge, passed away Feb. 10, 1999. Judge McGinty served the 24th District Court from December 1977 through December 1978. He previously served as City of Melvindale municipal judge from 1957 through 1977, and justice of the peace from 1934 through 1957.

**Norton, John H.**, retired 45A District Court judge, passed away January 27. Judge Norton served from 1979 through 1990.

**Vlaich, Mildred**, retired 52-3 District Court judge, passed away June 11. Judge Vlaich served from 1975 through 1980.

**Wells, William David**, retired Justice of the Peace and Municipal Judge for the City of East Grand Rapids passed away Feb. 18. Judge Wells served from 1947-1970.

# September

# October

21	MI Judges Assoc/State Bar Annual Meeting Cobo Hall, Detroit	28	State of Judiciary Address State Capitol, Lansing
27	MJI — Valuing Cultural Diversity Hamilton Inn, Mackinaw City		
4-6	Annual Judicial Conference Grand Traverse Resort, Acme	14-15	Orientation Training: Foreign Language Court Interpreters SCAO, Lansing
6	MI Assoc. of Court Mediators Catholic Family Services, Mt. Pleasant	18	JIS Circuit Court Abstract Training SCAO Region IV Office, Gaylord
10	JIS Circuit Court Abstract Training SCAO, Lansing	18-19	MJI — Family Division Referees Specialty Seminar Shanty Creek, Bellaire
10-12	Supreme Court Oral Arguments G. Mennen Williams Building, Lansing	19	Friend of the Court Association Cheers, Mt. Pleasant
10-12	MJI — Achieving Supervisory Excellence: Basic Supervision Bayshore Resort, Traverse City	19	UP District Judges/Admin/Clerks Premier Center, Iron Mountain
11	MJI — Valuing Cultural Diversity Holiday Inn, Dearborn	19-20	FIA — Effects of Violence on Children Holiday Inn South, Lansing
11-13	MI Family Support Council Fall Conference Boyne Highlands, Boyne City	20	Region IV District Admin/Clerks SCAO Region IV, Gaylord
12-13	Orientation Training: Foreign Language Court Interpreters 36th District Court, Detroit	23	Family Drug Court Training SCAO, Lansing
13	Referees Assoc. of MI Michigan Historical Museum Lake Superior Room, Lansing	25	MJI — Valuing Cultural Diversity Holiday Inn West, Lansing
13	Region III & IV Juvenile Registers SCAO Region IV, Gaylord	26-27	MI Assoc. of Circuit Court Admin. SCAO Region IV Office, Gaylord
		30-31	MJI — Court Support Seminar Sheraton Hotel, Lansing



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